have been placed before other WTO bodies, highlighting India's concerns. These include the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Dispute Settlement Body, Working Group on Trade and Competition Policy, Working Group on Trade and Investment, Committee on Trade and Environment and others. A special thrust has been taken by India with regard to the Special and Differential Treatment provisions for developing countries, which need to be translated into guidelines for implementation in order that benefits actually accure thereform to the developing countries. India has also been actively protecting its interest in the WTO and questioning non-tariff barriers raised by developed countries. Whenever instance of unwarranted barriers to market access are found to be actionable under WTO rules, disputes have been initiated under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.

(c) India works very closely with other developing countries. A group of like minded developing countries including India, Egypt, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Malaysia, Indonesia and several other countries meets regularly at Geneva to discuss issues and coordinate strategy. The G-15 countries met on 10-11 December, 1998 in New Delhi and strongly reiterated the need to address concerns about implementation especially relating to special and differential treatment provision of WTO agreements upfront and without linkage to any future negotiations. The recommendations of the G-15 Symposium were placed for consideration of Trade Minister at their meeting at Montego Bay in Jamaica on 6 February, 1999 followed by G-15 summit at the same venue on 10-11 February, 1999. The G-15 countries have resolved to coordinate their strategy in the WTO process. SAARC countries have also been meeting periodically to discuss WTO issues and work out common strategies.

Revamping Export Promotion Council

626. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp Export Promotion Councils with a view to showing their functioning and lifting the sagging export; and

(b) if so, the details in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The performance of Export Promotion Councils is reviewed on a regular basis with special reference to the mandate given to them. Government is continuously making efforts to strengthen these Councils to enable them to cater to the needs and fulfill the aspiration of the exporting community in an effective manner.

(b) A Sub-Committee has been constituted to look into this matter. Its report is under finalisation.

आभूषणों के निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने हेतु उठाए गए कदम

627. श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:
प्रो॰ रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश से आभूषणों के निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने हेतु ठोस कदम उठाए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) वर्ष 1999-2000 के लिए आभूषणों के निर्यात का क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। सरकार ने आभूषणों के निर्यात को बढ़ाने के कुछ उपाय किए हैं। हाल में उठाए गए कुछ अधिक महत्वपूर्ण कदमों में शामिल है। (i) निर्यातोन्मुख एककों (ईओयू)/निर्यात प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र के एककों (ईपीजेड) को पूर्ववर्ती वर्ष के निर्यात मूल्य का 10% सादे स्वर्ण आभूषणों के प्रति 10 ग्राम पर 400 रु॰ की